

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Deb Eiring, Public Affairs Specialist
605.745.2031 (Daytime)
605.890.2758 (Cell)
www.blackhills.va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2010

VA BLACK HILLS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM and MARINE CORPS LEAGUE to Host Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Marine Gatherings in Timber Lake, Rapid City, and Pine Ridge, SD

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Black Hills Health Care System invites all Marine Veterans who served during the Global War on Terrorism to join their fellow Marines from the Marine Corps League to participate in a Marine Gathering occurring at one of these locations in Western SD.

- Tuesday, June 1 Timber Lake, SD Senior Citizen Center
- Wednesday, June 2 Rapid City, SD American Legion, 818 E St. Patrick Street
- Thursday, June 3 Pine Ridge, SD Veterans Shelter, One Veteran Drive, Near Dialysis Building

All Gatherings are from **5 to 7p.m.** which will include a social, supper and important veteran related informational presentations.

“Major Bill Burkhart, a Marine Veteran Outreach Coordinator with the Marine Southwest District Support Cell will be visiting VA Black Hills during this time. It is his desire to meet GWOT Marines who are living their lives after the military in this part of the country,” said Lori Vosika, VA Black Hills Operation Enduring and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) Program Manager. Although held in South Dakota, these Gatherings are also for Marines of our boarding States. “We’d love to see Marines from NE, WY, MT, and ND in attendance and we invite our special Marine guests to bring a friend or loved one along,” said Karen Horne-Orose, a VA Black Hills case manager for the OEF/OIF Program.

These Gatherings are designed to bring Marines together for a time to socialize, build connections, and learn about various resources available to support veterans. “Finding out a military peer lives close by and you have so many great resources to support and assist you can be very empowering,” said Vosika. Members of the Marine Corp League and local County and Tribal Veteran Service Officers will also be on hand to address the participants.

For more information, please contact lori.vosika@va.gov or contact Lori at (605)745-2000 Ext 92176.

###